

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for therapeutically treating a subject suffering from a disease or disorder caused by an uncontrolled accumulation of lactic acid in the colon, said method comprising administering to said subject a food product comprising a combination of at least one polyol and an amount of polydextrose effective to reduce the lactic acid accumulation in the colon by sustaining and controlling fermentation throughout the colon of said subject, and wherein the uncontrolled accumulation of lactic acid is indicative of imbalanced colon fermentation.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing the pH throughout the colon.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is additionally effective in reducing putrefactive fermentation throughout the colon.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is additionally effective in increasing the amount of butyrate throughout the colon.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in increasing tolerance to probiotic lactic acid bacteria without accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing lactic acid induced lactose intolerance without accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing lactic acid induced food allergy without accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing lactic acid induced celiac disease without accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is effective in reducing the risk of lactic acid induced inflammatory diseases in the colon without accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is administered in an amount which is additionally effective in normalizing the microbial community throughout the colon without accumulation of lactic acid in the colon.

14. – 15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said polydextrose and said polyol are administered in synergistically effective amounts.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein said polyol is selected from the group consisting of lactitol, xylitol, maltitol, sorbitol and isomalt.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein said polyol is lactitol.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said subject is selected from the group consisting of human beings, pet animals, farm animals, laboratory animals and zoo animals.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said subject is selected from the group consisting of a young mammal at the age of weaning, a young mammal suffering from milk crust, a mammal treated with antibiotics, a mammal having sensitivity to lactose, a mammal suffering from celiac disease, a mammal suffering from food allergy and an aged mammal.

21-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said food composition is a sour milk product.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is hydrogenated polydextrose.

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is purified.

28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polydextrose is selected from the group consisting of non-hydrogenated polydextrose, hydrogenated polydextrose and non-hydrogenated or hydrogenated polydextrose which has been subject to purification and mixtures thereof.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the weight ratio of said polyol to said polydextrose ranges from about 1:10 to 10:1.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein polydextrose and polyol are added to said food product in synergistically effective amounts to control the accumulation of lactic acid throughout the colon of a mammal, and the food containing said polydextrose and polyol is administered to a mammal.

33. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein polydextrose and polyol are added to said food product in synergistically effective amounts to reduce putrefactive fermentation in the colon of a mammal when food containing said polydextrose and polyol is administered to a mammal.

34. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the ratio of polyol to polydextrose is from 1:5 to about 5:1.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein reducing the lactic acid accumulation in the colon results in sustained and controlled fermentation throughout the colon of said subject.

36. (Canceled)

37. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said subject is a mammal suffering from a disease or disorder selected from the group consisting of acidosis, osteoporosis and diarrhea.

38. (New) A method for preventing accumulation of lactic acid in the colon of a subject with a risk for imbalanced colon fermentation, comprising administering to a subject selected from the group consisting of a young mammal at the age of weaning, a young mammal suffering from milk crust, a mammal treated with antibiotics, a mammal having sensitivity to lactose, a mammal suffering from celiac disease, a mammal suffering from food allergy, an aged mammal and a mammal with a short intestine an amount of polydextrose effective to reduce lactic acid accumulation in the colon of said subject.

39. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein said polydextrose is administered in combination with at least one polyol.

40. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein said polydextrose is administered in a food composition selected from the group consisting of yogurt, baby's milk formula, sour milk, curdled milk, dry milk and crout.

41. (New) The method according to claim 39, wherein said polydextrose is administered in a food composition selected from the group consisting of yogurt, baby's milk formula, sour milk, curdled milk, dry milk and crout.

42. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said orally administrable food composition is selected from the group consisting of a dry, or semidry or liquid food product, a powder, a spray, a syrup, a sugar substitute, a candy or sweet, a dairy product, a frozen dairy product, a meat product, a health drink, a baby food, a pet food and an animal feed.

43. (New) The method according to claim 42, wherein said food composition is a sour food or feed product.

44. (New) The method according to claim 42, wherein said food composition is selected from the group consisting of yogurt, baby's milk formula, sour milk, curdled milk, dry milk and crout.